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SACRAMENTO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT AND BANK FRAUD

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that MICHAEL LAMB, 31, of Sacramento pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Morrison C. England to bank fraud and aggravated identity theft.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew D. Segal, who is prosecuting the case, in 2007, LAMB and two co-conspirators used stolen identities to obtain online car loans for a Calloway Corvette (\$83,863) and a Mercedes SCL 600 (\$50,000). They also created a fictitious corporation, opened a bank account in its name, and funded it with a \$25,000 transfer from another account in an identity theft victim's name. When LAMB was arrested, he had in his possession a California driver's license with his own picture and the personal information of one of the identity theft victims. He also had a credit card in that identity theft victim's name. Investigators tied LAMB to a computer with identity information and tools for creating and altering drivers licenses. LAMB was once a sales manager at a car dealership.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on April 30, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. LAMB faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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